

Broadway productions, greatly impacting the Off-Broadway scene. With programs such as the Mainstage Series, Musicals in Mufti Series, Developmental Reading Series, internship offerings, and a volunteer program, the York Theatre has made its mark on New York City's vibrant theatre community.

Since 2015, the York Theatre Company has offered its Musical Theatre Training Program that brings together working professionals and dedicated theatre students. This program offers training in singing, acting, and movements, as well as master classes with New York's top theater artists. The York Theatre's intensive sessions are offered to students from middle school to college. Many of these intensives offer students an opportunity to perform on the York Theatre's Off-Broadway stage at the conclusion of the program.

In the fall of 2014, the York Theatre celebrated its 100th Musical in Mufti with the production of Stephen Sondheim's *Saturday Night*. The York Theatre's Musical in Mufti ensures that lesser-known musicals of the past are performed and brought into new light for the enjoyment of modern audiences.

All New York City theaters have faced unprecedented challenges over the past year due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the important public health restrictions put in place, but the York Theatre also had to face the unexpected and heartbreaking flooding of their physical home. Faced with these "slings and arrows of outrageous fortune," the York Theatre has shown its adaptability. It has produced and streamed an incredibly popular online series. New York—its people and its institutions—are resilient, and I am confident that the York Theatre will soon be able to reopen its doors once again and introduce new audiences to the joys of musical theater.

The York Theatre Company has long been an incredible company that makes musical theatre accessible to New Yorkers of all ages and backgrounds, and I look forward to its full reopening. Off-Broadway theatre has played a pivotal role in making New York City the theater capitol of the world. The York Theatre Company has had a substantial impact on this great city's history.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to rise in recognition of the York Theatre Company, a principal in shaping New York City's theatre culture, as they celebrate the inauguration of their new theatre seats.

IN HONOR OF MESA POLICE
SERGEANT BRANDON MENDOZA

HON. ANDY BIGGS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 2021

Mr. BIGGS. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Mesa Police Sgt. Brandon Mendoza who was tragically killed by an illegal alien 7 years ago.

In the early morning hours of May 12, 2014, Sgt. Mendoza was driving home from his shift when he encountered an illegal alien driving under the influence of alcohol and meth. The illegal alien drove at high speeds in the wrong direction for 35 miles on four freeways in the Phoenix metro area. Despite law enforcement efforts to catch up to and stop the illegal alien, he ultimately collided head-on with Sgt. Mendoza, killing them both.

Sgt. Mendoza's death was untimely and preventable. But it requires Democrats to get serious about enforcement of our immigration laws and putting American families first.

Sgt. Mendoza's illegal alien killer had previously pled guilty to criminal conspiracy charges in Colorado, but, despite his illegal presence, he was not removed from the United States. Instead, he roamed free in our communities, ultimately choosing to drive without a license and while severely intoxicated.

Today, there are more than 3 million illegal aliens with final orders of removal, many of whom are suspected or convicted criminals, living in American communities. President Biden should prioritize removal of these individuals before they can do any additional harm.

I am enraged by President Biden's nonchalant attitude towards illegal immigration into the United States. In April, U.S. Customs and Border Protection apprehended a near record number of aliens attempting to illegally enter the United States, more than 173,000. President Biden's refusal to acknowledge the crisis at the border is a bold attempt to mislead the American public.

Last week, I traveled to the southwest border with 10 fellow members of Congress to again see firsthand the damage of President Biden's new border policies. Sgt. Mendoza's mother, Mary Ann, joined us for a portion of the tour. Since her son's death, Mary Ann has been a fierce advocate for border security, pleading with the Obama and Biden Administrations to protect other American families from experiencing the same pain and suffering.

During our visit, Mary Ann expressed concern that government leaders have forgotten families like hers and instead placed the interests of illegal aliens ahead of the interests of our nation. Families like Sgt. Mendoza's deserve to have their stories remembered. They deserve a government willing to protect them from the hands of illegal aliens.

I will continue to fight for border security and enforcement of our immigration laws. Sgt. Mendoza and other victims of crime by illegal aliens deserve no less.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARRY MOORE

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 2021

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, May 11, 2021, I was unavoidably delayed in returning to Washington, D.C., due to airline and transportation issues.

Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 134.

AMERICAN FAMILIES AT RISK

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 2021

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, on Saturday, a murderous, heinous car bombing in Kabul, Afghanistan, killed dozens of girls. The intentional targeting of girls

should be inconceivable but is the deliberate aim of fanatical totalitarians who are obsessed with murdering American families. Sadly, the reality of the Global War on Terrorism is that we must defeat terrorists overseas or they will return to attack American families.

I appreciate the insight of Congressman MIKE McCAUL and former Ambassador Ryan Crocker in their May 4, 2021, op-ed in *The New York Times*:

Last month, President Biden announced a complete withdrawal of all United States troops from Afghanistan by Sept. 11, the 20th anniversary of the day terrorists killed almost 3,000 people.

Many in the defense and intelligence communities oppose the move. A complete withdrawal based on an arbitrary deadline, rather than conditions on the ground, threatens our long-term national security. After all, it was the decision to rapidly pull out of Iraq, creating a power vacuum that allowed the Islamic State to grow, that ultimately forced our return to Iraq, prolonging the war.

We cannot allow history to repeat itself.

It's foolish to think the Taliban will engage in good faith with the Afghan government or abide by the commitments made to the previous administration after we've departed. In response to the withdrawal announcement, the Taliban tellingly announced they would not participate in a peace conference planned to start late last month in Turkey and refused to commit to a date in the future, effectively ending the already fragile peace process. The Taliban clearly does not want peace.

In fact, after America withdraws, it's very likely the Taliban will try to take control of the country, once again giving our enemies a place from which to conduct external attacks against us and our allies. Without a military presence in country, the United States will be giving the green light to the Taliban to roam and conquer.

As William J. Burns, the C.I.A. director, told the Senate Intelligence Committee in April, there is "significant risk" associated with withdrawal. "The U.S. government's ability to collect and act on threats will diminish," he said. "That's simply a fact."

The decision, however, has been made. But before the pullout is complete, the Biden administration must mitigate its dangers. As our sources on the ground will soon go dark, the gaps in our intelligence collection and counterterrorism networks must be remedied so we retain the ability to identify and eliminate threats before they reach our shores. To do so, we must urgently set up agreements with neighboring countries to provide us with intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities.

Mr. Biden promised that America's humanitarian and development assistance to the country would continue. To enable our personnel and the countless nongovernmental organizations we work with to provide that help, we must keep them safe. If the country slides back into civil war or once again falls under Taliban rule, maintaining an embassy presence and distributing assistance will become close to impossible. The administration must develop a clear strategy for protecting our embassy, diplomatic staff and aid workers.

The president must also acknowledge that the withdrawal will have dire consequences for Afghan women and girls—and work hard to prevent it. For the past 20 years, we have encouraged Afghan women to step forward, as students, teachers and professionals. Encouraged by our presence, they did just that. But without our presence in the country, it will be difficult to safeguard the gains women have made in Afghan society and to ensure women's rights are protected.